

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Delete the "Abstract" on the PCT cover sheet and replace it with the "Abstract of the Disclosure" set forth below.

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A method of generating a pulse width modulated (PWM) signal receives digital demand data comprising at least one more significant bit and at least one less significant bit. The PWM signal comprises a sequence of one or more frames, each frame comprising a plurality of PWM pulses whose duty cycle is substantially governed by the at least one more significant bit. At least one of its PWM pulses is selected to have its duty cycle modified in response to the at least one less significant bit. Each of the at least one less significant bits uniquely mapping onto the at least one selected PWM pulse of the frame. An apparatus operable according to this method includes an optical attenuator whose optical attenuation is dependent upon its temperature and in which the temperature and, hence, the attenuation is controlled using the above PWM signal.